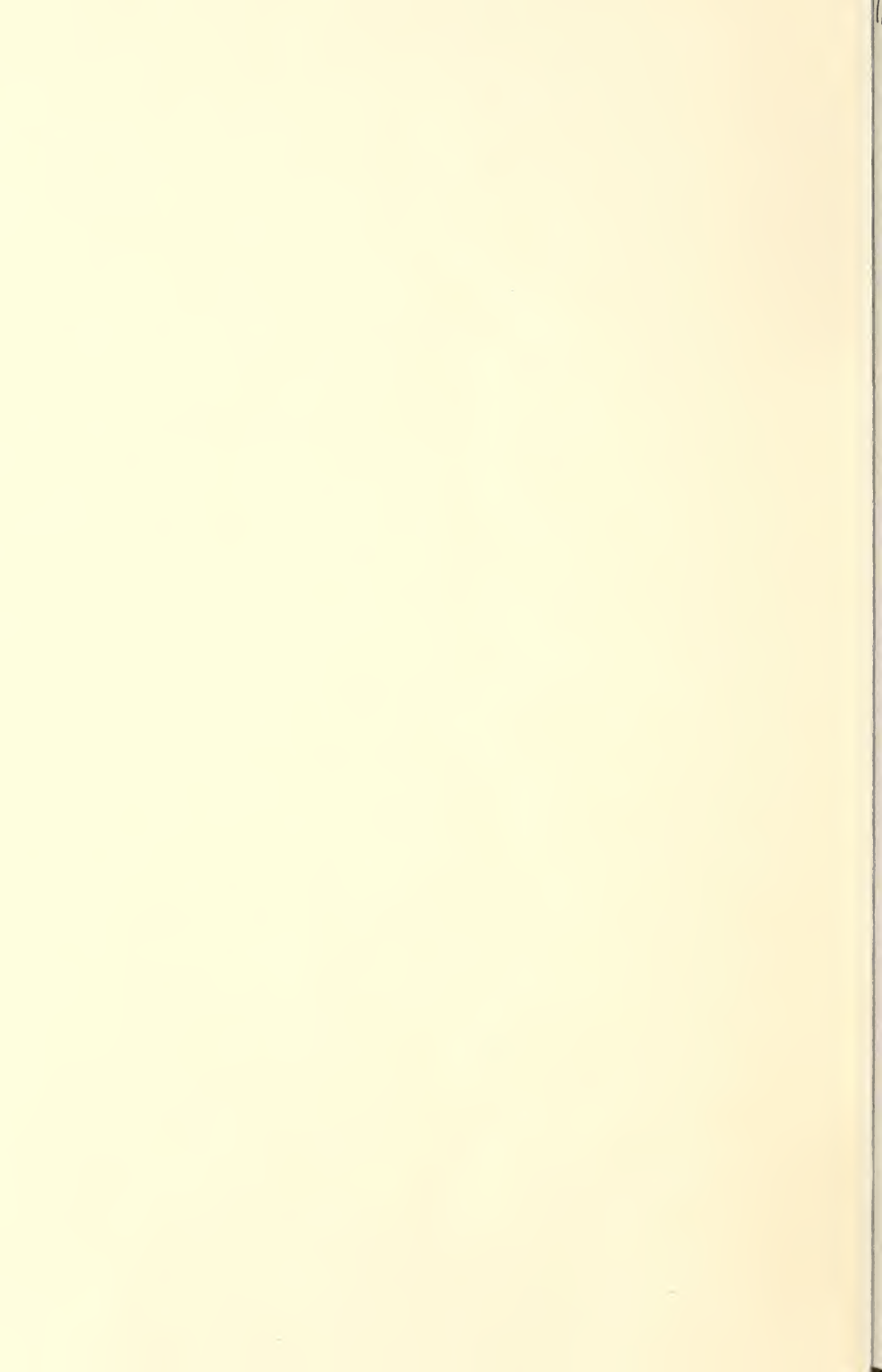


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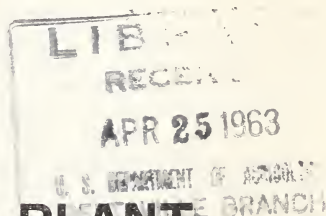


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# Agricultural Situation



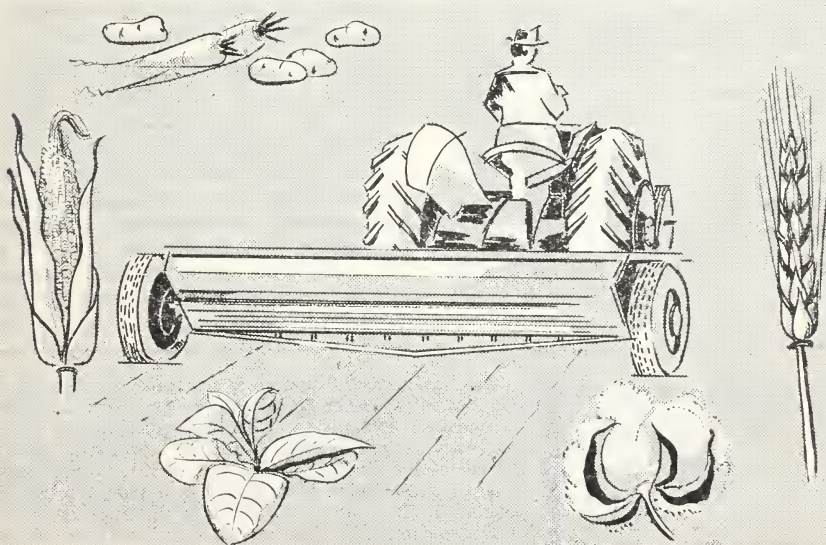
## FARMERS PLAN TO PLANT SECOND SMALLEST ACREAGE

The Nation's farmers' plans, as of March 1, are to plant 263 million acres of the 17 major spring crops. This is 2 percent more than last year and 1 percent more than in 1961.

Adding the acreage seeded to winter wheat and rye, and allowing for a number of minor field, seed, and vegetable crops, statisticians estimate a total

planted acreage of 307.5 million acres for 59 crops. This total, if realized, would be the second smallest of record—5.8 million acres or 2 percent more than last year's record low.

**Corn:** March 1 plans of farmers call for 69.8 million acres of corn in 1963—6 percent more than last year. Prospective corn acreages are larger in the



North-Central and North and South Atlantic States, but smaller in the South-Central and Western regions.

*Sorghums:* Planting intentions also show 6 percent more acreage of sorghums with increases ranging from 5 to 10 percent in the important Plains States but declines in many minor sorghum States.

*Barley and Oats:* Planted acreage is expected to be 5 percent less than last year for each of these crops. Acreages in the important North-Central States total 6 percent smaller than 1962 with all States in the region expecting decreases except North Dakota.

*Wheat:* The indicated seeded acreage of wheat, 53.2 million acres, is 8 percent more than last year. Winter wheat increased 9 percent and spring wheat, other than durum, is expected to increase 11 percent, but durum acreage shows an expected drop of 12 percent from last year's large acreage.

*Rice:* Producers plan about the same acreage as last year—1.8 million acres.

*Rye:* Seedings of rye are 10 percent less than a year earlier.

## Oilseed Acreage

*Soybeans:* Record high acreage is in prospect, 29.9 million acres, 4 percent more than last year's high. Acreage increases are expected in all areas, but the greatest percentage increases will be in South-Central States.

*Cotton:* Smaller acreage allotments drop cotton acreage intentions to 14.8 million—9 percent less than last year.

*Flaxseed:* Growers' plans now indicate 3.2 million acres, 3 percent more than last year, with Minnesota and North Dakota leading the increase.

*Peanuts:* A 1-percent decline is indicated with no change in the Virginia-

Carolina area, but smaller acreage total in the southeast and southwest.

## Other Crops Mostly Lower

Total acreage of all hay crops is expected to decline less than 1 percent from last year. Farmers in the Atlantic and South Central States, where hay has been short this winter, plan to increase acreage, but a decrease is indicated in the North-Central and Western States.

*Tobacco:* Total tobacco acreage 3 percent smaller. Less acreage is in prospect for flue cured, allotments down 5 percent, and each cigar class. Other tobacco acreages about the same as last year.

*Potatoes:* Total acreage 1 percent less. Each seasonal group lower except early spring. Dominant late summer and fall acreage 1 percent smaller with decreases in 23 of the 33 producing States.

*Sweetpotatoes:* Acreage expected to decline 5 percent, resuming the long-time downtrend that was interrupted last year.

*Dry Beans and Peas:* Bean producers' plans call for an acreage 4 percent less than last year, while dry pea acreage is expected to be 1 percent less.

*Sugarbeets:* A record acreage planned—7 percent more than last year and 29 percent more than average.

These acreage indications represent farmers' thinking as of March 1. Many things may change farmers' plans—weather, plant diseases, prices, participation in Government programs, labor supplies, and even the publication of the March Prospective Plantings Report.

B. R. Bookhout  
Statistical Reporting Service

The Agricultural Situation is sent free to crop, livestock, and price reporters in connection with their reporting work.

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# HOG INVENTORY LARGER IN 10 CORN BELT STATES THAN IN '62

Hogs and pigs on farms March 1, in 10 Corn Belt States totaled 41.6 million head, 1 percent more than a year earlier. Numbers were larger in Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, while Indiana and Illinois had fewer hogs on hand. Normally these 10 States account for three-fourths of the U.S. pig crop.

The number of hogs and pigs used or to be used for breeding totaled 8.2 million head and comprised 20 percent of all hogs and pigs on hand March 1, 1963. Other hogs and pigs on March 1, 1963 accounted for 33.4 million head or 80 percent of all hogs. Of these, the percentage of total and number in each weight group are as follows: 34.7 percent or 11.6 million head, under 60 pounds; 23.3 percent or 7.8 million head, 60 to 119 pounds; 25.1 percent or 8.4 million head, 120 to 179 pounds; 13.4 percent or 4.5 million head, 180 to 219 pounds; and 3.5 percent or 1.2 million head, 220 pounds and over.

## December–February Farrowings

The December 1962–February 1963 pig crop totaled 12.6 million head. This is the number of pigs from litters farrowed during this period on hand on March 1 or that had already been sold. The number of sows farrowing during this 3-month period totaled 1.8 million head, slightly more than farrowing a year earlier and 2 percent more than the 1957–61 average.

The number of pigs per litter averaged 6.82 for this period ranging from a low of 6.46 in Ohio to a high of 7.29 in South Dakota. Unfavorable weather and heavy losses from disease in some areas are factors influencing the lower

litter size. December 1962 sow farrowings were 17 percent more than a year earlier, and January 1963 sow farrowings were 5 percent greater. Sow farrowings during February 1963 were 9 percent less than the number farrowed during February 1962.

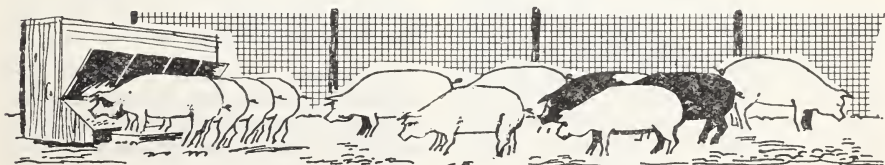
Sows bred and intended for farrowing in March, April, and May this year in the 10 States totaled 3.8 million head, 4 percent more than a year earlier. All States show increases ranging from 1 percent in Iowa and Minnesota to 16 percent in Missouri. The breakdown by months is for 1.4 million sows to farrow in March, 1.5 million in April, and 0.9 million in May.

Reported breeding intentions indicate 2.4 million sows to farrow during June through August in the 10 States. This is 1 percent more than a year earlier and 6 percent more than the average. Six of the 10 States show increases from a year earlier; 2 plan no change; 2 expect decreases.

## New Information Available

Beginning with the March 1 Pig Crop Report, additional data on the pig crop and hogs on farms are included. The number of all hogs is divided into two groups: Hogs for breeding and other hogs. Other hogs in the inventory are classified according to five weight groups. The number of sows farrowing during the previous quarter and the number of sows expected to farrow during the next 3 months are shown by months. The pig crop will be estimated by quarters. A similar report for these States will also be issued for June 1, September 1, and December 1.

R. M. Pallesen  
*Statistical Reporting Service*



# **SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED DECREASE 6 PERCENT . . . EARLY LAMB CROP SMALLER**

Sheep and lambs on feed in the 7 major feeding States (Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, and California) totaled 1.5 million head on March 1, 1963, a 6-percent decrease from the 1.6 million on feed a year earlier.

The number on feed March 1 this year showed a 40 percent seasonal decline from January 1 numbers compared with a 38 percent decline in 1962. The largest decreases (compared with a year ago) were in South Dakota and Texas, both down 16 percent, and in Colorado where the decrease was 11 percent. Iowa and Kansas declined 3 percent and 2 percent, respectively. California increased 10 percent and Nebraska advanced 2 percent compared with March 1, 1962.

Placements during January and February, at 462,000 head, were 15 percent below the 541,000 placed in these 7 States in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Fed sheep and lamb marketings during January and February were 1,436,000 head for these States or 5 percent below the 1,512,000 marketed in the same period in 1962.

In the 7 States all weight groups showed decreases from a year earlier, except the 100-pound-plus group. The number weighing less than 60 pounds was down 14 percent; sheep and lambs weighing 60 to 79 pounds declined 10 percent, and the 80-to-99-pound group decreased 8 percent. The number weighing 100 pounds or more increased 6 percent.

Compared with a year earlier, fewer early lambs were born prior to March 1 this year in the principal early lamb-producing States. The number of breeding ewes on January 1, 1963 was 3 percent below a year earlier. Arizona, Idaho, and Washington had more ewes on farms on January 1, while each of the following eight States (Texas, California, Kansas, Missouri, Oregon, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia) had fewer.

The number of early lambs born in three States (Texas, California, and Kansas) was 2.2 million head, a 3-percent decline from the number born prior to March 1, 1962.

James L. Olson  
*Statistical Reporting Service*

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## **Now Alaska and Hawaii Report Annual Dairy Statistics**

Data from Alaska and Hawaii on milk production in 1961 and 1962, along with current monthly production now are made available from USDA's Statistical Reporting Service. This initiates the incorporation of Alaska and Hawaii data into dairy statistics for the United States.

This year for the first time SRS reported cow numbers in both Alaska and Hawaii as a regular part of its January cattle inventory information. Alaska reported 2,900 milk cows and heifers 2 years and older on January 1, 1963, compared with 3,200 a year earlier. Hawaii had 16,000 on both dates. Thus, on a 50-State basis, cow

numbers, on January 1, 1963, were 18,730,000 and 19,167,000 at the beginning of 1962. Hawaii and Alaska together account for about 0.1 percent of total U.S. milk cows.

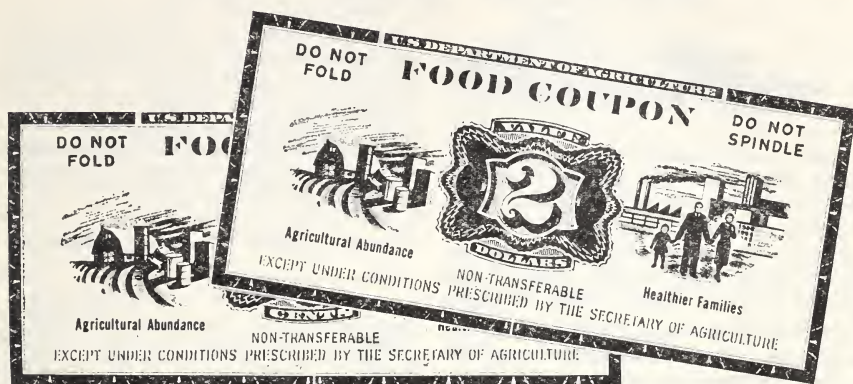
Earlier published data on milk cow numbers and milk production in Hawaii included information only on herds of more than 10 cows.

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### **The Farmer's Share**

In January, the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 38 cents, the same as it was in December. In January 1962, the farmer's share was 39 cents.

# THE PILOT FOOD STAMP PROGRAM BOOSTS FOOD SALES



Approximately a quarter of a million people in 30 counties and 3 major cities in the United States are buying more and better food through the Department of Agriculture's *Pilot Food Stamp Program*. And by the end of June, the Department's Agricultural Marketing Service expects to have the program operating in 12 more counties.

The *Food Stamp Program* is a unique approach to providing better diets for needy families and at the same time expanding farm markets. Instead of Federal food donations, these families receive coupons, which they use to buy U.S.-produced food at retail stores. Grocers redeem the coupons through participating commercial banks, which in turn are reimbursed by USDA.

State and local welfare agencies designate families who are eligible to participate in the *Food Stamp Program*. These families use the money they would normally spend for food to buy Federal food coupons. In return they receive coupons of greater value. The amount of money the families pay and the value of free coupons they receive are determined by family size and income.

In mid-1961 eight areas of chronic unemployment inaugurated the experimental *Food Stamp Program*, in place of direct distribution of foods to needy

families. Since that time participants have paid, on the average, 63 cents for every \$1 worth of coupons received. Thus, 37 cents of every food dollar spent by these families represents additional purchasing power supplied by the Federal Government.

Surveys of the "food stamp pilot" projects, made jointly by USDA's *Economic Research Service* and *Agricultural Research Service*, revealed that needy participants in the program were buying more meats, poultry, eggs, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables. As a result, their diets show a marked improvement after participating in the program.

There was an 8-percent increase in retail food sales in stores surveyed in all eight of the first pilot areas. Any overall increase in markets for livestock products and fruits and vegetables should help to relieve the general problem of overproduction in agriculture. Though the eight original projects were too limited in scope to measure any definite effects on farm income, the researchers found the *Food Stamp Program* beneficial to local private businesses. More detailed studies will be made of its effects on farm income as well as Government costs.

Bonnie P. Smith  
*Agricultural Marketing Service*



# HOW DID YOUR STATE RANK IN THE LIVESTOCK COUNT?



Alaska and Hawaii were included in the statistics of livestock on farms in the United States for the first time this year. Alaska has a small livestock industry and ranks 50th in all classes except sheep and lambs (39th). Its most important farm product is milk.

Hawaii, even though it has a small land area, ranks above many of the Eastern States in cattle and hogs. There were 216,000 cattle in Hawaii on January 1, 1963, and, of these, 193,000 head were beef cattle. Hawaii ranked 43d in all cattle and 39th in hogs.

Cattle numbers increased rather generally across the country last year, with all of the top 10 States making gains. Texas remains the leader in total cattle numbers with 10,240,000 head. California jumped from eighth place last year to fifth on January 1 this year because of the large number

of cattle on feed. Minnesota moved up from seventh to sixth place in number of cattle and calves, while Wisconsin and Missouri dropped to seventh and eighth, respectively.

(Continued on page 14)

## ALL CATTLE AND CALVES

State	Number
	1,000 head
Texas.....	10,240
Iowa.....	7,053
Nebraska.....	5,773
Kansas.....	5,222
California.....	4,663
Minnesota.....	4,386
Wisconsin.....	4,382
Missouri.....	4,306
Illinois.....	4,055
Oklahoma.....	3,764
United States.....	103,754

## NUMBER OF PIGS SAVED <sup>1</sup>

State	Number
	1,000 head
Iowa.....	20,093
Illinois.....	12,738
Indiana.....	8,041
Missouri.....	6,955
Minnesota.....	6,518
Nebraska.....	4,581
Ohio.....	4,535
Wisconsin.....	3,702
South Dakota.....	2,900
Kentucky.....	2,349
United States.....	94,244

## ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS

State	Number
	1,000 head
Texas.....	5,651
Wyoming.....	2,219
Colorado.....	1,911
California.....	1,909
South Dakota.....	1,774
Montana.....	1,610
Iowa.....	1,361
Utah.....	1,274
New Mexico.....	1,145
Idaho.....	1,113
United States.....	30,170

<sup>1</sup> Total pigs saved from spring and fall pig crops in 48 States.



# WHEAT STOCKS CONTINUE DECLINE

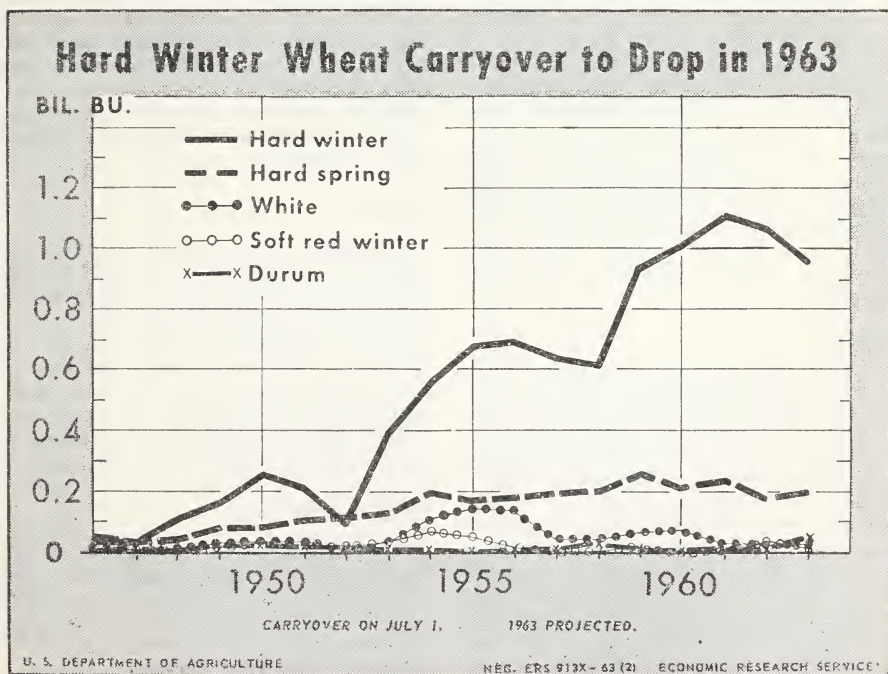
July 1 stocks of wheat are expected to decline for the second consecutive year. The carryover at the end of 1962-63 is presently estimated at 1,225 million bushels, 80 million below July 1, 1962, and 186 million below the record of 1961. The anticipated decreases in stocks of winter wheats would more than offset increases in stocks of spring wheats.

The carryover of hard winter wheat on July 1, 1963, may total about 960 million bushels, a decrease of over 100 million from a year earlier. Soft red winter stocks are expected to be about 10 million bushels on July 1, down 14 million from a year earlier. The hard winter and soft red winter wheat crops in 1962 were considerably below those of 1961. White wheat (winter and spring) stocks, estimated at 15 million bushels, would be 6 million below last July 1.

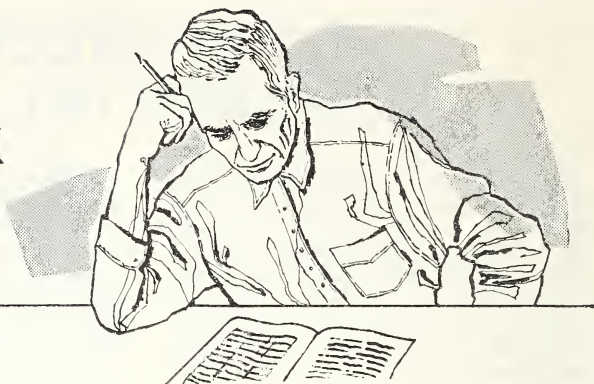
The carryover of hard spring, at 195 million bushels, would be only 8 million above that on July 1, 1962, although stocks of durum at 45 million would be 40 million above the small stocks of 5 million bushels on hand a year earlier. Crops of each of these classes in 1962 far exceeded the poor crops of 1961.

The anticipated decline in stocks is largely due to the smaller all-wheat crop of 1962. This crop totaled 1,092 million bushels, about 85 million bushels smaller than the projected total disappearance in 1962-63. Domestic disappearance of wheat this year is about the same as in recent years, 607 million bushels. Exports are currently estimated at 570 million bushels, substantially below the high level of the 2 preceding years.

William R. Askew  
*Economic Research Service*



# outlook



## NUMBER OF FARMS

The number of farms in operation in 1962 was more than 3 percent below 1961. The average farm size increased to 316 acres from 307. In 1963, acreage in farms is expected to remain close to the 1962 total. Further consolidation probably will result in a continued increase in the average farm size.

## CATTLE

The supply of fed beef during the second quarter of this year is expected to exceed a year earlier by at least 10 percent as a result of the larger inventory of cattle and calves on feed. Retail prices have been adjusted downward in February and March and probably will continue to adjust lower during the second quarter. If retail prices continue to decline, and if the inventories of fed cattle are marketed orderly, a further serious price drop may be averted during the second quarter.

## DAIRY

First-quarter milk production was about 1 percent below a year ago. Production of butter in the first quarter is estimated to be about 9 percent below year-earlier output and American cheese production about 2 percent below a year earlier. The wholesale prices of butter generally were near the support level through March and the prices farmers received for all wholesale milk were running about 15 cents per 100 pounds below a year earlier. The support level for the new marketing year (begun April 1)

continues at 75 percent of parity, so prices farmers receive in the last three quarters of 1963 probably will approximate those of a year earlier. Due to a shift in the period used for computing parity, support is up from \$3.11 to \$3.14, the minimum legal price.

## SHEEP

Sheep and lamb slaughter has averaged considerably under a year ago so far this year. Prices of lambs at Denver were averaging about \$2.50 above the prices of the same week a year earlier, but they have changed little since the beginning of the year. Some upward price movement is expected as slaughter supplies decline seasonally this spring, but the margin over 1962 prices probably will narrow.

## HOGS

Slaughter hog supplies probably will continue to be above a year earlier through May, with prices tending to remain at low levels through May. Prices probably will rise seasonally to an August peak, then move lower during the late summer and fall, as the 1963 spring pig crop goes to slaughter. Prices are expected to remain below a year earlier through the second half.

## FEED GRAINS

Disappearance of feed grains so far in 1962-63 has been a little below the record rate in 1961-62 but is expected to exceed 1962 production. Stocks carried over into 1963-64 probably will be reduced another 15 percent.

## WHEAT

The quantity of privately held old-crop wheat at the end of the current marketing year is expected to be substantially less than the large amount last July 1.

## COTTON

The carryover of cotton in the United States next August 1 is expected to be the largest since 1957, because both the mill use and exports are lower than a year ago, and the 1962 crop was the largest since 1953.

Acreage allotments for 1963 cotton (upland and extra-long staple) have been reduced to 16.4 million acres from 18.2 million in 1962. Price support for upland cotton has been set at 32.47 cents per pound (Middling 1-inch)—the same as for the 1962 crop.

## POULTRY

Higher feed prices than in 1962 are holding chick purchases close to last year's levels. Only moderate production increases are in prospect for broilers and egg-type birds in the next few months. Egg output probably will not be significantly higher than last year until the fourth quarter.

## WOOL

The outlook for the U.S. wool industry in 1963 is for less production than in 1962, moderately declining prices, slightly less mill use of raw wool, a continued high level of imports of wool textile products, and increased competition from the rising output of man-made fibers. (See story on p. 14.)

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# EXPORTS OF RYE TO SET RECORD

The supply of rye for the 1962-63 marketing year is the largest since 1944. However, heavy disappearance, resulting from large exports, is expected to permit only a slight increase in the carryover. The large 1962 crop has put pressure on rye prices, and the season average received by farmers in 1962-63 is estimated at 95 cents per bushel, 7 cents below the support price.

Assuming that domestic use, other than for feed, continues near last year's level and that feed use will drop to about 9 million bushels, the total domestic disappearance in the 1962-63 marketing year would be about 25 million bushels.

Exports likely will decline during the remainder of the year from the high level of July-December but will probably total about 15 million bushels in 1962-63, double those of a year earlier. The combined estimated domestic and export disappearance would leave a carryover on July 1, 1963, of about 10 million bushels, about 2 million more than the carryover at the beginning of 1962-63.

As a result of the large crop and con-

sequent low prices, farmers placed large quantities of rye under price support. Through January, the end of the loan period for 1962-crop rye, 5.8 million bushels had been put under price support compared with only 1.6 million through the same period a year earlier.

The rye acreage sown to the 1963 crop for all purposes in the fall of 1962 was estimated at 4.4 million acres, 10 percent below the 1961 fall seedings but 6 percent above the average for the 1952-61 crops. In the important north-central region, the acreage planted last fall was down 16 percent from a year ago. The first official estimate of 1963 rye production will be made in July. But, if about 40 percent of the planted acreage is harvested and yields equal the average of the last 5 years (18.4 bushels per acre), a crop of about 32 million bushels would be produced in 1963.

The price-support rate for 1963-crop rye is \$1.07 per bushel. This is 5 cents above the support rate for 1961- and 1962-crop rye.

William R. Askew  
*Economic Research Service*



# CASTORBEAN PRODUCTION

## ON INCREASE AGAIN

Some farmers who are looking for a new cash crop may try castorbeans this year. Prospects are that 1963 acreage of this oilseed crop may be larger than in recent years. Adaptable areas are chiefly in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska.

In 1962, farmers harvested 23,500 acres of castorbeans, according to trade estimates. Growers produced 34 million pounds of beans compared with 27 million in 1961. Over 90 percent of the castorbeans were grown under irrigation, with Texas accounting for three-fifths of our output. The average yield per acre in 1962 was 1,434 pounds compared with 1,029 pounds a year earlier and the record 1,765 pounds achieved in 1958. Yields last year varied from 1,855 pounds per acre in Texas to 757 pounds in New Mexico.

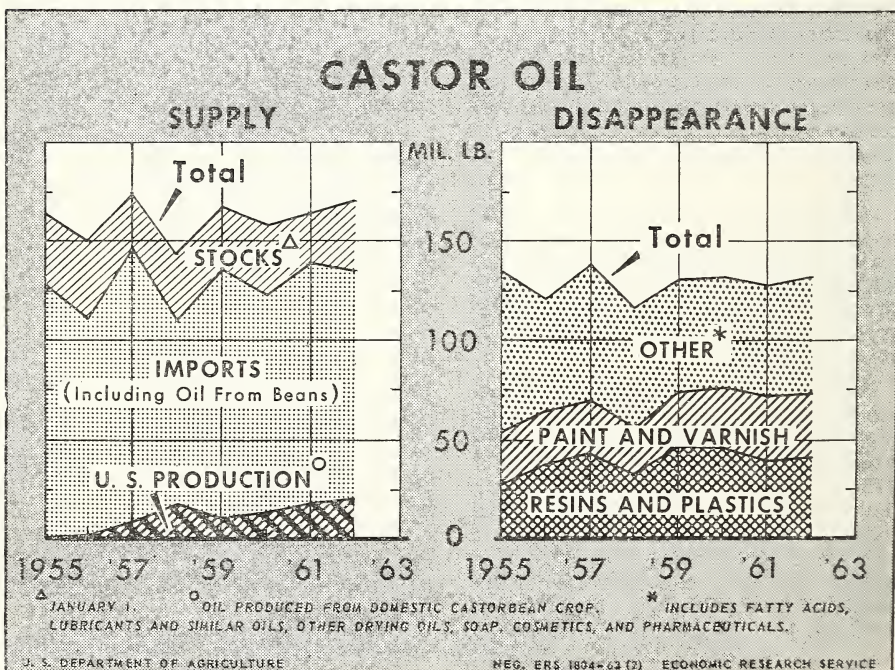
The 1962 castorbean crop should yield 16 million pounds of oil, 12 per-

cent of our annual requirement of 130 million pounds. This means that in 1963 about 88 percent of our oil needs will be met through imports. Paints, varnishes, resins, and plastics account for roughly three-fifths of domestic usage (see chart).

Castorbean production is an integrated industry. Farmers grow castorbeans under contract with castor oil processors, who agree to pay a definite price at harvest, give specific information on growing the crop, and help make arrangements to harvest it. Do not grow a castorbean crop unless you have a marketing contract with a processor.

**WARNING**—Castorbeans are poisonous and should not be eaten by humans or livestock.

George W. Kromer  
Economic Research Service





# SMALLER SOYBEAN CARRYOVER IN PROSPECT

The mid-year soybean outlook indicates that domestic supplies available the rest of the current marketing year will be about as large as during the spring and summer of 1962.

This year, however, requirements will be greater and carryover stocks of old-crop beans on October 1, 1963, will be down sharply from the same date last year.

## Prices

Soybean prices to farmers have increased from a monthly average of \$2.23 per bushel last October to \$2.51 in March 1963. During this period, CCC virtually liquidated its holdings of 40 million bushels of beans. Prices are expected to continue strong this spring and summer, averaging above the \$2.33 per bushel received during April-September 1962.

The total supply of soybeans for the entire 1962-63 marketing year that started October 1, 1962, is estimated at 723 million bushels (after adjusting for new crop beans crushed and exported in September).

## Crushings

Crushings of soybeans for oil and meal during the entire 1962-63 season likely will set a new record of around 470 million bushels, 7 percent more than the year earlier record grind. Soybean exports are expected to reach a new high of about 175 million bushels, 14 percent greater than in 1961-62. This would result in a carryover of old crop soybeans of around 35 million bushels on September 30, 1963, compared with 58 million on the same date last year. A carryover of 35 million bushels would be less than 1 month's requirement for crushing alone. In terms of soybean meal it would represent virtually all of the carryover as only small quantities of soybean meal as such are stocked.

The record crush this year is prompted by the strong domestic and export demands for soybean meal, and stocks continue low. Soybean oil dis-

appearance continues heavy, but the record crush has maintained oil stocks at unusually high levels, though less than last year.

Most of the prospective increase in soybean exports in 1962-63 is expected to go to Western Europe, where the demand for soybean meal is expanding rapidly, since improved feeding practices require high-protein feeds. In recent years, Western Europe became a major market for U.S. poultry meat. With the advent of the Common Market and high levies on imported poultry, the member countries are greatly expanding their domestic poultry industries with consequent demand for more and higher quality mixed feeds.

Soybean exports from Red China may increase slightly in 1962-63 but will continue at a relatively low level. A decided shift in Chinese soybean shipments from Western Europe to Japan occurred in 1961-62, and probably will continue this year. This change has moved the competition of Chinese soybeans with U.S. soybeans from Western Europe to Japan. A continuation of tight food supplies will tend to limit increased soybean exports from Red China.

## Strong Demands Ahead

The strong crusher and export demands generated during the current marketing year for our soybeans, is expected to continue during 1963-64. Soybean farmers reported, as of March 1, that they intend to plant a record 30 million acres of soybeans in 1963, or 4 percent more than in 1962. Increases over last year are expected in each of the producing areas with the largest percentage increase occurring in the south-central area. Relatively favorable prices for the 1962 crop of soybeans probably influenced some farmers to expand their acreage this year. The price support for 1963 crop soybeans has been set at a national average of \$2.25 per bushel, the same as for 1962.

George W. Kromer  
*Economic Research Service*

# 1963 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES

## Summer and Fall Vegetables for Fresh Market and Processing

The USDA has recently issued Acreage-Marketing Guides to help vegetable growers plan for balanced markets next summer and fall.

These guides are based on market analysis of each crop by specialists who follow the markets for each commodity throughout the year.

Compliance with the Acreage-Marketing Guides is voluntary, but, in past years, when growers have planted the recommended acreages, they have run into few marketing problems.

Let's look briefly at a few recommendations covering vegetables for fresh market:

For instance, *carrots for early summer harvest*: Last year, growers increased acreage substantially. This led to a potential oversupply throughout the season and prices were very low. From past market performance there is pretty good evidence of how many *carrots* are needed to fill market requirements. To achieve the desired market balance in 1963, a 15-percent cut is advisable.

*Late summer onions* provide another example of a crop which was too large in 1962. Normally a production of 17 million hundredweight is enough to supply market outlets. The 1962 crop exceeded 19 million hundredweight. Exceptionally high yields were partly responsible for the heavy supply. But acreage was also excessive. To increase prospects for a profitable season in 1963, growers are urged to cut plantings 5 percent.

On the other hand, acreage sometimes should be increased to satisfy market needs. Take *eggplant*—market requirements are fairly stable for this commodity. And, with average yields in 1963, a 5-percent larger acreage is considered necessary to produce an adequate supply.

Vegetables for commercial processing are treated separately. But processing guides are developed for the same purpose as the fresh market recommendations. Suggested acreage adjustments are designed to result in a balanced supply position for each commodity in the following marketing season.

A look at *sweet corn* shows that a 15-percent cut in acreage is recommended for *corn for canning*. A reduction of 10 percent is suggested in *corn for freezing* acreage. These are rather substantial cuts. But supplies of both items were record large at the start of the 1962-63 marketing season. And if stable markets are to prevail next season, a supply adjustment is essential.

Substantial acreage reductions are also recommended for the *processing crops* of *tomatoes*, *snap beans*, and *lima beans*. Supplies of these products are particularly large, and their markets would benefit from smaller packs in 1963. In contrast, larger acreages are considered necessary for *spinach for canning* and *cucumbers for pickles* to adequately fill market needs.

Of course, after looking over the situation for many crops, frequently no justification is found for recommending any acreage change. In fact, most recommendations for fresh vegetable crops next summer and fall call for no change in acreage. However, the exceptions are important.

For details on all of the recommendations you will probably want to get personal copies of the *Acreage-Marketing Guides*. Your local county agent should have these booklets available. Or you may drop us a card for a free copy. Our address is: *Agricultural Situation, OMS, Division of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D.C.*

# 1962 CASH RECEIPTS UP IN MOST STATES

In 1962, cash receipts from farm marketings were higher than in 1961 in 29 of the 48 contiguous States. Receipts in 4 States were virtually unchanged but were under 1961 estimates in 15 States. Receipts ranged from 5 percent less in Oklahoma to 22 percent above in North Dakota.

Ranked on the basis of total cash receipts from marketings in 1962, California and Iowa were first and second, respectively, for the 15th consecutive year. Estimated receipts in California were \$3.3 billion and Iowa \$2.6 billion. The only other States over \$2 billion in cash receipts from marketings were Texas and Illinois. Other major farm States in terms of cash returns from marketings were Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, North Carolina, and Ohio. The 12 States having estimated cash receipts from marketings over \$1 billion each in 1962 accounted for \$20.2 billion, or 57 percent of total cash receipts from farm marketings.

On the other hand, the 12 States at the bottom of the ranking in cash receipts from farm marketings had a combined estimate of \$1.5 billion, or 4 percent of the total for the 48 States.

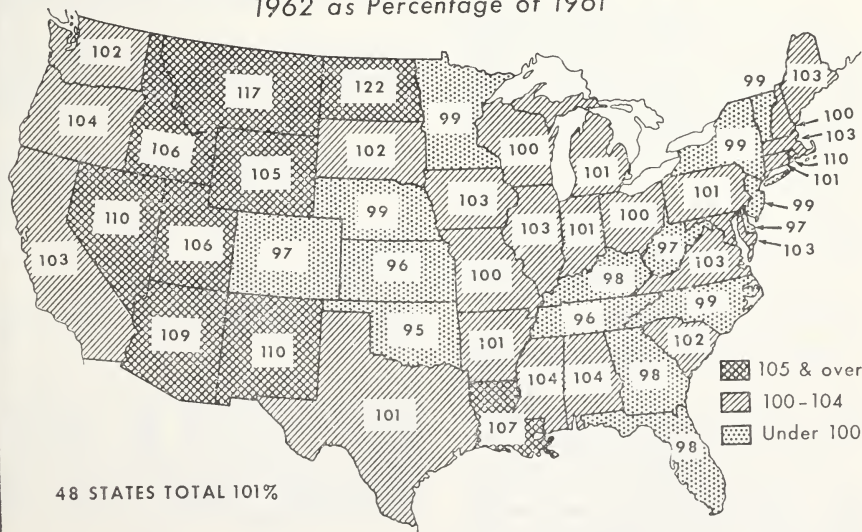
Cash receipts from farm marketings in 1962 were above a year earlier in the central and western regions of the country and little changed in the regions bordering on the Atlantic. The increase from a year earlier was strongest in the West due, in large part, to substantial gains in cash receipts in the Mountain States.

Cash receipts from farm marketings in the North-Central States in 1962 are estimated at \$15.4 billion, or 43 percent of the \$35.7 billion for the 48 States. In this 12-State area, the heart of the Corn Belt, cash receipts averaged \$1.3 billion per State, compared with \$0.6 billion per State in the remaining 36 States.

Mardy Myers  
*Economic Research Service*

## CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS

1962 as Percentage of 1961





# WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN, MOHAIR OUTPUT UP IN 1962

Shorn and pulled wool production (grease basis) in the United States during 1962 was 278 million pounds, 6 percent below 1961 production of 296 million pounds.

Shorn wool produced in 1962 at 249 million pounds is valued at \$116 million. Production in 1961 at 261 million pounds was valued at \$112 million. The shorn wool average price received by growers from April 1962 through January 1963 was 46.5 cents per pound. In the 1961 marketing year (April 1961–March 1962), the average price per pound of wool produced was 43.0 cents.

The number of sheep and lambs shorn in 1962 totaled 29.5 million, 4 percent less than in 1961. Fleece weight average in 1962 was 8.43 pounds compared with 8.50 pounds in 1961.

Production of pulled wool in 1962 of 29.9 million pounds was 13 percent below the 1961 output of 34.5 million. Commercial slaughter of sheep and

lambs during 1962 declined 2 percent compared with 1961.

Mohair production in 1962 was 27.2 million pounds in the seven leading States—Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and California. Texas accounted for 97 percent of the production in the seven States. The 1962 clip was 3 percent above 1961 production. The value of 1962 production, \$17.3 million, was 23 percent below the 1961 production value of \$22.6 million.

Growers received an average price of 63.6 cents per pound from April 1962 through January 1963. During the 1961 marketing year, the average price was 85.6 cents per pound.

The number of goats and kids clipped in the 7 States in 1962 was 4.2 million head, 5 percent more than in 1961. The average weight of mohair per goat and kid clipped was 6.4 pounds. In 1961, the average weight per clip reached a record high of 6.6 pounds.

James L. Olson  
*Statistical Reporting Service*

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## March 1 Stocks of Hops Down From a Year Ago

Hops are produced commercially in only four States (Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho) but after drying, curing, and baling they end up in storage in many parts of the country. On March 1, 1963, hops were stored in 32 States.

These stocks totaled 37,530,000 pounds, 4 percent less than a year earlier even though the production of

hops in 1962 (44,231,000 pounds) was 25 percent greater than during the previous year. The March 1 stocks were the smallest for that date since 1958.

Brewers owned 30,110,000 pounds or 80 percent of the stocks; dealers owned 17 percent (6,310,000 pounds); and growers owned 3 percent (1,110,000 pounds).

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### LIVESTOCK—Continued

Wisconsin still ranks first in milk cow numbers with 2,426,000 head, 1.0 million more dairy cows than Minnesota, the second-ranking State.

All of the 10 leading States in sheep and lamb numbers are west of the Mississippi River. Colorado moved ahead of California to third place. No

other changes were noted in the leading States.

There was only one change in the ranking of the top 10 States in number of pigs saved during 1962. Nebraska moved up into sixth place ahead of Ohio. Iowa farmers kept their State out in front, with 20.1 million hogs saved or 37 percent of the U.S. total.

Donald Seaborg  
*Economic Research Service*



# Meet the State Statistician . . .

## ALTON R. LARSEN

If one were to collect statistics on Alton R. Larsen, he would have a colorful assortment of facts and figures. Larsen comes from the pioneer stock of the Great Salt Lake State . . . his family—his heritage—his past and present are all much a part of Utah.

As State statistician-in-charge of both Utah and Nevada, Larsen watches over agricultural economies primarily built around the livestock industry. He handles statistics that many Utah-Nevada people live by.

As he grew into manhood on a Utah farm, he first realized the need people have for the kind of marketing information he now helps to prepare.

"We were never sure that we were getting a fair price for our livestock or dairy products," he says, "and often were forced to take unfair prices."

Larsen is a Mormon and his parents and grandparents were pioneers.

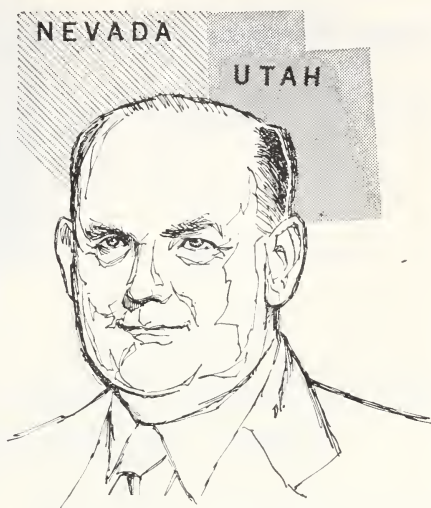
Born in 1905, the youngest of six children, he still arrived in time to experience pioneer ways and pioneer work. He remembers an 8-day trip by covered wagon, when his family moved from Castle Dale to Altonah to settle new land in 1914.

Much of the land was virgin—land that had to be lived on in tents until the log cabins were built—land grubbed of sagebrush by a heavy rail and a team of horses—land to be cleared, cultivated, fenced, and sometimes irrigated or drained.

Larsen's father had ambitions that his children have land of their own, but these plans vanished when he died suddenly in 1919. His mother gave up the farm, but not her hopes to see her children all receive as much education as possible.

Although Larsen had to work for his education, city jobs seemed like fun when compared to his years of hard farmwork. In June 1928, he received his coveted bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University.

Those were lean years for almost everyone, but by 1934 he had attained



both a master's degree in economics and a position as an agricultural economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. His job took him back to Utah as a statistician between 1935 and 1942. Then he worked 7 years in the Seattle, Wash., office before his present job, as head of the Utah-Nevada office, was offered in 1951.

Mrs. Larsen is the former Mary Hansen of Brigham City, Utah, whom he married in Washington, D.C., in 1933. They have three children: Alton R. Jr., the oldest, attended the University of Utah, and served as a Mormon missionary for 2 years in Australia before becoming a Salt Lake City real estate man. Patricia, their married daughter, is also near at hand. Their youngest son, Stephen, is serving a 2-year mission for the Mormon Church in Texas and will presently finish at college.

Alton R. Larsen takes pleasure in his grandchildren (four), his work, which he finds satisfaction in, his singing (a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir), and in his churchwork, which he has always actively been engaged in. He may well take pleasure in his memories, too.

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Editor: William Whyte

